

§ 150.101

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AUTHORITY: Secs. 2701 through 2763, 2791, and 2792 of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg through 300gg-63, 300gg-91, and 300gg-92).

SOURCE: 64 FR 45795, Aug. 20, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 150.101 Basis and scope.

(a) *Basis.* CMS's enforcement authority under sections 2722 and 2761 of the PHS Act and its rulemaking authority under section 2792 of the PHS Act provide the basis for issuing regulations under this part 150.

(b) *Scope*—(1) *Enforcement with respect to group health plans.* The provisions of title XXVII of the PHS Act that apply to group health plans that are non-Federal governmental plans are enforced by CMS using the procedures described in § 150.301 *et seq.*

(2) *Enforcement with respect to health insurance issuers.* The States have primary enforcement authority with respect to the requirements of title XXVII of the PHS Act that apply to health insurance issuers offering coverage in the group or individual health insurance market. If CMS determines under subpart B of this part that a State is not substantially enforcing title XXVII of the PHS Act, including the implementing regulations in part 146 and part 148 of this subchapter, CMS enforces them under subpart C of this part.

§ 150.103 Definitions.

The definitions that appear in part 144 of this subchapter apply to this part 150, unless stated otherwise. As used in this part:

Amendment, endorsement, or rider means a document that modifies or changes the terms or benefits of an individual policy, group policy, or certificate of insurance.

Application means a signed statement of facts by a potential insured that an issuer uses as a basis for its decision

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whether, and on what basis to insure an individual, or to issue a certificate of insurance, or that a non-Federal governmental health plan uses as a basis for a decision whether to enroll an individual under the plan.

Certificate of insurance means the document issued to a person or entity covered under an insurance policy issued to a group health plan or an association or trust that summarizes the benefits and principal provisions of the policy.

Complaint means any expression, written or oral, indicating a potential denial of any right or protection contained in HIPAA requirements (whether ultimately justified or not) by an individual, a personal representative or other entity acting on behalf of an individual, or any entity that believes such a right is being or has been denied an individual.

Group health insurance policy or group policy means the legal document or contract issued by an issuer to a plan sponsor with respect to a group health plan (including a plan that is a non-Federal governmental plan) that contains the conditions and terms of the insurance that covers the group.

HIPAA requirements means the requirements of title XXVII of the PHS Act and its implementing regulations in parts 146 and 148 of this subchapter.

Individual health insurance policy or individual policy means the legal document or contract issued by the issuer to an individual that contains the conditions and terms of the insurance. Any association or trust arrangement that is not a group health plan as defined in § 144.103 of this subchapter or does not provide coverage in connection with one or more group health plans is individual coverage subject to the requirements of part 148 of this subchapter. The term “individual health insurance policy” includes a policy that is—

(1) Issued to an association that makes coverage available to individuals other than in connection with one or more group health plans; or

(2) Administered, or placed in a trust, and is not sold in connection with a group health plan subject to the provisions of part 146 of this subchapter.